

ALTERNATIVE 1 — PROPOSED ACTION

CONCEPT

To achieve a balance between resource protection and visitor use, the parks' natural and cultural resources would be preserved and protected, but restoration would be emphasized more than currently where sensitive resources were at risk. In-depth interpretation would be provided both in facilities and onsite. Orientation would help visitors easily access both facility-based and resource-based interpretation and visitor opportunities. Major developments would be focused along U.S. Highways 101 and 199. Facilities would be retained in areas with sensitive resources. However, new uses and facilities to enhance visitor experiences in such areas of the parks would be required to be low impact. New visitor services and facilities in other areas of the parks would be provided to enhance visitor experiences if the services and facilities did not impact sensitive resources (see Alterna-

tive 1 Management Zoning and Alternative 1 **General Plan** maps). This alternative is the agencies' proposed action

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Reflecting the goal of balance between resource protection and visitor use under this alternative, acreages of the developed, frontcountry, backcountry, and primitive zones in **table 3** are each intermediate between alternative 3 (which emphasizes resource preservation) and alternative 4 (which emphasizes visitor use) (see Alternative 1, Management Zoning **maps a, b, and c**). About 13.6 miles of trails in the primitive zone would remain. No new trails would be constructed in the primitive zone, including 28 miles of trails that have been proposed in previous planning documents.

TABLE 3: MANAGEMENT ZONES, PROPOSED ACTION (ALTERNATIVE 1)

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Objectives

- Ensure that all resource management efforts are consistent with and supportive of the perpetuation of the redwood forest ecosystem as the prime resource of the parks.
- Restore and maintain the RNSP ecosystems as they would have evolved without human influences since 1850 and perpetuate ongoing natural processes.
- Actively participate in land use decisions for activities such as logging, mining, and the development of highways and subdivisions adjacent to the parks to minimize impacts on RNSP resources and values.
- Cooperate with the timber industry, private landowners, and other government agencies to accomplish long-range resource management planning and reduce threats to the RNSP resources.
- Acquire baseline information on selected RNSP biological and physical environments, and monitor key environmental factors over time to determine the effects of human activities and influences on both local and bioregional levels.
- Aggressively pursue remedies to prevent theft and commercial exploitation of RNSP resources.

Issues and Actions

Watershed Management and Restoration in and upstream of the Parks

Issue. Erosion and sedimentation threaten the aquatic and riparian resources of certain streams within the parks, primarily Redwood Creek and its tributaries. Recent major storms and the resulting severe erosion and damage to the parks' resources have underscored the need to significantly accelerate the current rate of watershed restoration efforts within and upstream of the parks to prevent catastrophic resource degradation within the parks. Features of the landscape in the Redwood Creek basin that are most susceptible to erosion are a result of

intense land use that preceded establishment and expansion of the national park and promulgation of California's *Forest Practice Rules*. Naturally high erosion rates were greatly accelerated by the combination of timber harvest, logging, road construction, and major storms.

Since 1978, erosion control efforts within the parks have focused on the removal of former logging roads because poorly located and designed roads are major contributors of sediment to downstream and downslope resources. Within the entire Redwood Creek basin alone, there were approximately 415 miles of former logging roads included within the national park boundary and, currently, there are an estimated 1,110 miles of logging roads upstream of the national park. In 1978 it was anticipated that watershed restoration efforts within the national park would be completed by 1993. However, due to a shortage of resources, only 190 miles of roads have been removed to date, and the current rate of road removal averages about 2.5 miles per year. Of the remaining 225 miles of road, 155 miles are targeted for removal; decisions on removing the final 70 miles are pending evaluation of administrative needs for those roads weighed against their erosion potential and long-term maintenance costs.

About 85% of the 1,110 miles of logging roads located upstream of the national park were constructed before the current forest practice rules were in effect (1983), and more than 50% of these roads are currently not maintained. Of the total estimated erosion potential from all roads within the Redwood Creek basin (5,185,000 cubic yards of sediment), 85% is associated with roads upstream of the national park on private timberlands. These poorly constructed and maintained roads represent a major threat to resources along the main stem of Redwood Creek in the national park. To date, RNSP staff working with private landowners and staff from the Bureau of Land Management have treated about 24 miles of logging roads upstream of the national park to eliminate erosion potential. The ability of RNSP staff to participate in further cooperative erosion control efforts is limited by the lack of resources.

VARIOUS ZONES OF MINIMAL AREA — ALTERNATIVE 1

Some relatively small areas of the parks (shown as triangles on the previous management zone maps) have been zoned differently than their surrounding areas. To more clearly identify these areas and make it easy to know what zone these small areas are in, the following list has been developed.

AREA	ZONE
Hiouchi visitor center	Developed
Jedediah Smith small satellite operations area	Developed
Stout Grove	Frontcountry
Mill Creek trail and Nickerson Ranch trail	Backcountry mechanized
Boy Scout Tree trail	Backcountry nonmechanized
Camp Lincoln	Frontcountry
Aubell Ranch	Developed
Howland Hill Outdoor School	Developed
Crescent Beach Education Center	Developed
Nickel Creek primitive campground and trail from Enderts Beach Road	Backcountry mechanized
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park small satellite operations area	Developed
Damnation Creek	Cultural
DeMartin primitive campground	Backcountry mechanized
Redwood Hostel	Developed
Wilson Creek	Frontcountry
Lagoon Creek picnic area	Frontcountry
Flint Ridge primitive campground	Backcountry mechanized
Fern Canyon trailhead	Frontcountry
Espa Lagoon	Developed
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park visitor center	Developed
Prairie Creek small satellite operations area (until moved)	Developed
Elk Prairie campground	Frontcountry
Wolf Creek Outdoor School complex	Developed
Prairie Creek fish hatchery	Cultural
Lost Man Creek trailhead/picnic area	Frontcountry
Redwood Creek trailhead	Frontcountry
South Operations Center	Developed
Redwood Information Center	Developed
Redwood Creek overlook	Frontcountry
Ganns Prairie	Cultural
Dolason trailhead	Frontcountry
Tall Trees Grove parking	Frontcountry
Tall Trees Grove trailhead	Frontcountry
Radio repeater	Developed
Lyons Ranch trailhead	Frontcountry
Schoolhouse Peak	Developed

Actions.

Within the National Park — Watershed restoration efforts would be increased so that an average of 9.5 miles of roads would be treated per year within the park. Partial landform restoration would be emphasized, with complete removal of all major logging roads and limited removal of minor logging roads that pose the greatest threat to the park's resources. This approach would require about 17 years to treat 155 miles of road.

Upstream of the National Park — Depending on opportunities offered by property owners and the availability of resources, up to 40 miles of roads would be treated per year upstream of the national park. Road decommissioning (see table 2 and glossary) and erosion prevention would be emphasized. Assuming that approximately 85% of the 1,100 miles of roads in the upper Redwood Creek basin require treatment, this approach would require 23 years to treat the existing 911 miles of logging roads.

***Watershed Management and
Restoration in Redwood Creek Estuary***

Issues. The Redwood Creek federal flood control project levees, which extend for 3.4 miles from just upstream from the town of Orick westward to about 1,000 feet from the Pacific Ocean, have altered the physical and biological functioning of the Redwood Creek estuary. This has resulted in major adverse impacts such as decreased water circulation in the estuary and sloughs, fewer deepwater pools, decreased extent of wetlands and riparian habitat, deteriorated water quality, degraded juvenile rearing and adult holding habitat for fish, and reduced wildlife and invertebrate abundance and diversity in the lower Redwood Creek valley and estuary. The natural functioning of the Redwood Creek estuary is critical to the survival of anadromous fish such as salmon and steelhead.

The north and south slough channels to the embayment have become filled with sediment, and the sloughs are now isolated from the embayment except where the mouth closes and the water level rises and during extreme high

tides. This has resulted in decreased dissolved oxygen and increased algal blooms and aquatic vegetation in the sloughs. Repeated artificial breaching of the natural sandbar to protect private and public property has adversely affected the biological and physical functioning of the estuary.

A way to ensure the natural ecological functioning of the Redwood Creek estuary needs to be determined.

Actions. While maintaining the current land uses in the lower Redwood Creek valley, to the extent possible, the estuarine ecosystem would be at least partially restored. A combination of land acquisition, conservation easements, partial levee removal, and restructuring would be considered for restoring the estuary (see table 24 in the "Environmental Consequences" section). A recommendation would be made as to how much of the federal flood control levees west of Orick would need to be removed to restore the estuary. Water level management (e.g., controlled breaching and channel manipulation) to conserve salmonid habitat by preventing the negative effects of an uncontrolled natural or illegal breach and to protect the Redwood Information Center would continue.

Vegetation Management

Issues. Old-growth redwood forests are the primary resource and the purpose for establishment of these parks. The youngest second-growth forests are still recovering from timber harvest before the establishment of the parks. These forests are beginning to provide some watershed protection, but they still lack the old-growth qualities. Second-growth forests have been seeded with exotic tree species and are regrowing in a manner in which they are not expected to achieve old-growth conditions or species composition for hundreds of years. Managing second-growth forests, including restoring old-growth conditions in the shortest time period possible, reducing a potential fire hazard, and restoring habitat for threatened and endangered species and other wildlife, could be achieved by using a variety of methods and techniques.

PAST ROAD RESTORATION PROJECT SITES

BEFORE

Ah Pah Road

Before restoration
road crosses a
stream channel.



DURIN

Ah Pah Road

uring restoration
excavation of road fill
down to original
stream channel.

AFTER

Ah Pah Road

Restoration
one year after stream
channel reconfiguration
channel appearance
is similar to what
would occur with
natural processes.



EXAMPLES OF ROAD FAILURES AND PROBLEMS

Westside access road

January 1997, imboard ditch capacity exceeded resulting in flooding across road causing erosion of outboard road edge.



January 1997, road erosion caused by culvert failure from age-related problems.



M-8/M-Line Junction

Landslide January 1997, lower view of slide into Redwood Creek.



M-8/M-Line Junction

Landslide January 1997, top view of slide above Redwood Creek.



The prairies and oak woodlands exhibit both natural and cultural values. The current program of conifer removal and burning emphasizes restoring and preserving prairies and oak woodlands in the Bald Hills. The program needs to integrate other natural and cultural values into a more ambitious restoration approach that addresses historic natural and cultural processes and practices, and effects on wildlife, cultural landscapes, and traditional American Indian uses in prairies throughout the parks. Some members of the American Indian community are seeking more involvement in the planning and implementation of resource management actions on their ancestral lands.

The extent to which fire would be managed both for safety and to ensure the perpetuation of RNSP ecosystems needs to be determined. A history of fire suppression, along with the development of effective fire suppression techniques, has interrupted the fire regimes that developed in the different RNSP vegetation types and ecosystems for many centuries. A better understanding of these fire regimes is needed to determine the extent to which fire should be restored in RNSP ecosystems and how this would be accomplished. Fire might also be needed as a tool to reduce fuels that have the potential to threaten developments, resources, or public safety.

Actions. Action items would be as follows.

Second-Growth Forest Management — Silvicultural methods such as thinning, replanting, and burning would be used in second-growth forests to shorten the time in which the forests reattain characteristics and processes found in mature, naturally occurring forests. Managing those second-growth stands that are critical to ecosystem restoration would be emphasized. Managing second growth that would contribute to visitor use and enjoyment of the parks would also be considered. A plan for managing second-growth forests would be prepared and accompanied by appropriate environmental compliance documents.

Prairie Restoration — After evaluation, naturally occurring prairies, as well as prairies and oak woodlands maintained by American

Indians through burning, would be restored; they would be maintained by reestablishing a historic fire regime. Selected forest openings would be maintained where appropriate for the resource values present (e.g., wildlife habitat, cultural landscapes, or aesthetics).

Fire Management — A fire management program would be established to support resource management objectives, including the restoration of fire in old-growth forests, prairies, oak woodlands, and coastal shrub communities as a natural process. The program would be based on sound risk management, economic viability, the best science available, cooperation with other agencies and tribes, and consideration for public health and environmental quality. The program would allow for wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use (allowing natural ignitions to achieve resource objectives), and prescribed fire.

Techniques other than fire might also be used to reduce fuel hazards in second-growth and old-growth forests and around developments and structures to reduce the risks of damage from wildland fires. All prescribed fire and wildland fire use would be conducted under the approved *Fire Management Plan* for the parks that would articulate objectives, strategies, and techniques and describe contingency plans should suppression action be needed. A wildland fire implementation plan that supplements the *Fire Management Plan* would be prepared as needed to identify specific actions and describe operational requirements for this type of fire.

Prescribed fire plans would be prepared for individual burns that would provide burn objectives, prescriptions, and contingency plans in case the prescription is exceeded or suppression action is needed. An interpretive program would be established to explain the benefits of the fire management program.

Artificial Impoundments

Issue. Under NPS and CDPR policies and directives, artificial impoundments should be removed from parks unless they are contributing elements to cultural landscapes. There are numerous artificial dams, ponds, and lagoons

throughout the parks that have safety and resource management implications. Some artificial impoundments also have resource and recreational values.

Actions. Dams would be maintained only where public safety or significant resources were at risk; otherwise, they would be removed. Recreational uses would continue until an impoundment was removed.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Objectives

- Recognize the past and present existence of peoples in the region and the traces of their use as an important part of the environment to be preserved and interpreted.
- Expand the cultural resource program from one that is project and compliance based to one that includes comprehensive study.
- Integrate more closely the NPS and CDPR cultural resources management programs for the parks.
- Reaffirm the commitment of the RNSP staff to positive relationships with American Indians. Continue working with American Indians not only in a government-to-government capacity, but also in partnership through consultations, the positive consideration of economic opportunities, and the encouragement of the perpetuation of traditional practices that are relevant to RNSP management. Provide opportunities for American Indians to interpret their own culture.
- Enhance the coordination of the natural and cultural resources management programs, including working with American Indians.
- Provide for more active integration of the cultural resources and interpretation functions. For example, explain the interplay through time between human activity and the environment and the effects of changes in technology on this interplay.
- Emphasize the development of publications for visitors that present the results of cultural resource studies.

- Actively pursue opportunities for the adaptive rehabilitation of the historic Prairie Creek fish hatchery.

Issues and Actions

Note: Under this alternative, the Greater Coastal Drive would be converted to a trail (if it fails), hiking and equestrian trails would be removed from sensitive resource areas, and the CDPR administrative facilities would be removed from Elk Prairie. These actions, which could affect cultural resources, are described in other sections of this alternative and are not addressed further in the following discussion.

Historic Resources — Structures

Issues. Some of the parks' historic structures are inadequately preserved and protected. It is a challenge for RNSP staff to preserve and protect these historic resources while providing for their use and/or interpretation.

Actions. Historic structures would be stabilized, protected, and preserved as appropriate. Opportunities would be sought for adaptively rehabilitating the Prairie Creek fish hatchery, the historic structures that is most suitable for the historic property leasing program. Options for the parks' other historic structures would include their active interpretation or use as discovery sites, with minimal or no onsite interpretation.

Historic Resources — Cultural Landscapes

Issues. The inventory, evaluation, and documentation of the parks' cultural landscapes are incomplete. The management of certain cultural landscapes, e.g., the Bald Hills, which encompasses the Lyons Ranches Rural Historic District and the Bald Hills Archeological District, is complex due primarily to the interrelationship between landform restoration, vegetation management programs, and the concerns of American Indians (see "Ethnographic Resources" below). In addition, the parks' cultural landscapes are not interpreted for and appreciated by visitors.

Actions. Seven cultural landscapes potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places have been identified to date in Redwood National and State Parks, as follows:

Redwood National Park —

- Lyons Ranches Rural Historic District
- Bald Hills Archeological District
- the site of radar station B-71
- Prairie Creek fish hatchery

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park —

- Camp Lincoln
- Kelsey Trail

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park —

- Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park headquarters complex

Cultural landscape inventories or cultural landscape reports would be prepared to document and evaluate the above landscapes, as well as to identify any other landscapes within the parks that would be eligible for listing on the national register. In addition, the inventories or reports would guide the preservation and management of the parks' cultural landscapes, and provide RNSP interpretive staff with the information necessary to interpret for visitors the effects over time of human actions upon the parks' natural landscapes. The cultural landscape inventories or reports would help RNSP managers decide whether or not to implement any of the actions proposed in this alternative that are in or near potential cultural landscapes.

Pending the completion of a cultural landscape report for the Bald Hills, this area would be managed in accordance with the NPS *Bald Hills Vegetation Management Plan* (1992), *Fire Management Plan* (1994), and the *Exotic Plant Management Plan* (1995); the monitoring of resource conditions in the Bald Hills area would continue. Watershed and prairie restoration activities in this area would be directed toward removing signs of recent human habitation and use, with the exception of those resources that

are either historically significant or required for RNSP operations.

A visitor use management plan would be developed for the Bald Hills. The primary emphasis of the plan would be to provide a quality visitor experience by interpreting the archeological sites, historic buildings and features, and associated landscapes that collectively exhibit use by American Indians and Euro-Americans. The interpretive/educational component of the visitor use management plan, however, would balance visitor use with the study, protection, and preservation of resources. Pedestrian access to selected sites would be encouraged, and some sites would be treated as discovery sites, with minimal or no onsite interpretation provided. The visitor use management plan would be periodically revised, as new information became available.

Many of the natural and cultural resources traditionally used by American Indians affiliated with the parks are contributing elements to the parks' historic and ethnographic cultural landscapes. The continued traditional use of these resources could be an integral component of the parks' management of these landscapes. In consultation with the local American Indian tribes, these traditional uses would be actively interpreted.

Ethnographic Resources

Issues. The lands comprising Redwood National and State Parks are part of the ancestral territories of the Tolowa, Yurok, and Chilula. The Chilula, who no longer exist as a group, became part of the Hupa Tribe, who are located immediately east of the parks. The parks contain numerous ethnographic resources, but few of these have been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the gathering of traditional materials in the parks, including basketmaking materials, firewood, and game, is important to the American Indian community. Regulations and policies regarding the gathering of natural resources by Indians differ between the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Actions. The historical presence of American Indians in the region would be recognized as an important cultural element of Redwood National and State Parks. Ethnographic resources would be protected from desecration and managed with an emphasis on research, inventory, evaluation, and preservation of both the resources and the practices traditionally associated with them. Opportunities for visitors to observe, experience, and learn about the traditional practices of American Indians would be encouraged, to allow visitors to develop a greater appreciation for American Indian culture, although attention would not be drawn to the most sensitive of the parks' ethnographic resources.



Contemporary American Indian weaving traditional basket from materials found in and near the parks. NPS photo.

Many of the cultural resource studies completed for Redwood National and State Parks include ethnographic information, and ethnographic information is included in consultation records; a formal ethnographic overview and traditional use study of the parks would be completed. Recommendations concerning the national register eligibility of ethnographic resources would also be included. To make the ethnographic overview and traditional use study more useful to RNSP staff, it would also include contemporary use information. In addition, the overview would provide an inventory of ethnographic place names for use in naming developments in the parks and for describing study results (for example, soil names).

Redwood National and State Parks would develop a common understanding with the Yurok people regarding the preservation, management, interpretation, and use of the Brush Dance site. RNSP staff would facilitate the Yurok Tribe's long-term management and use of the site. Although the Brush Dance site is subject to erosion by the Klamath River during floods, no actions would be undertaken to protect the site from flooding.

Differences in policy between the national and state parks regarding the gathering of natural resources for traditional uses would probably continue. Under state park regulations, American Indians may obtain a permit for the gathering of materials for traditional uses, but NPS regulations currently do not permit such activities. However, the traditional use of certain plants in Redwood National and State Parks might be permitted in accordance with the management of designated cultural landscapes (see "Historic Resources — Cultural Landscapes").

Collections

Issue. Irreplaceable prehistoric and historic artifacts, natural history specimens, and archival materials, including NPS resource management field records and data, are threatened with loss because the parks lack specialized work/storage/study facilities critical to museum and archival resources preservation. Natural resource management data and specimens, collected since the establishment of Redwood National Park and only recently accessioned into the RNSP museum collection, require cataloging. Many

RNSP resource-related collections, which have yet to be identified and properly researched, exist outside of the parks among nonprofit organizations or other government agencies.

Actions. Curatorial activities would be consolidated into an existing facility that provides adequate workspace, storage, and equipment for cultural and natural resource collections and archives. The location of the facility would be based on interpretive and research needs.

Collections would be aggressively developed. A survey of the external and internal collections associated with Redwood National and State Parks would be undertaken to develop a finding aid that lists the location and identity of park-related materials in outside collections.

A protocol for accessioning natural resource materials into the collection and an archival processing plan would be prepared to guide processing, maintenance, and access to archival materials in an orderly professional manner.

The parks' curatorial program would include the development of a process to provide access to museum collection research information related to RNSP ecosystems and natural and cultural resources, including computer-based access.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Objectives

- Provide in-depth interpretation of the parks' primary themes both in facilities and onsite through appropriate exhibits, waysides, publications, and visitor activities.
- Coordinate orientation and information services with those of other federal, state, and local government agencies and private organizations to enhance service to visitors to the area and improve operational efficiency.
- Support a broad spectrum of diverse educational opportunities at the outdoor schools and in local communities for students and adults within the parks' regional setting.

- Develop new visitor services and facilities in the parks in locations that will expand visitors' awareness of the parks' diverse resources and enhance visitors' abilities to gain access to resource and activity sites.

Issues and Actions

Orientation/Information

Issue. RNSP managers and staff need to assess, maintain, and improve the ways visitor information and orientation requirements are met.

Actions. Interpretive waysides, directional signs, bulletin boards and orientation kiosks would be upgraded to improve visitor orientation to RNSP resources. Information services and facilities would be coordinated through partnerships with others inside and outside the parks. Where feasible, information services would be consolidated, and designated facilities would be expanded to provide both area information and interpretation of natural and cultural resources.

Interpretation

Issue. The scope of the personal and nonpersonal services program, development of the parks' significant themes, and the types of facilities needed to provide access to resources need to be addressed.

Actions. Interpretive operations and media would be used to provide a balance of general and preservation information about natural and cultural history topics. Research and resource management actions would be explored in depth and fully supported.

Most of the parks' visitors would receive an in-depth interpretation of primary interpretive themes through additional facilities, publications, and programs. Additional opportunities would be provided for visitors to see and enjoy old-growth redwood forests, wetlands, prairies, and sites related to American Indian culture; however, visitor use of these sensitive resources would be carefully managed to protect resources.

Interpretive operations and media would be used in the Bald Hills area to provide a balance of preservation and general information about old-growth forest management, second-growth forest management, watershed resources, prairie vegetation, and human use.

Information, Orientation, and Interpretive Centers

Issue. Almost none of the interpretive facilities in the parks presents in-depth interpretation of significant RNSP resources. Existing small interpretive facilities provide similar and often duplicative services, and their roles and functions need to be better focused and coordinated.

Actions. Action items would be as follows:

Visitor Centers — A primary visitor center would be constructed in an area that would not impact RNSP resources but that would provide direct access to the primary resources and the opportunity to interpret the parks' primary interpretive themes (e.g., in the vicinity of B-Mill deck). The facility would interpret the natural systems that define the redwood environment, bring the cultural story together in one place, and introduce visitors to the critical role science plays in managing and rehabilitating RNSP resources. The center would include visually engaging interior exhibits, a dedicated auditorium, book sales, and trip-planning. A number of hiking and driving tours would originate here.

The Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park visitor center would be retained. The facility would continue to provide interpretation of and orientation to the resources of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Elk Prairie, Roosevelt elk, Prairie Creek, Gold Bluffs Beach, Fern Canyon, and old-growth redwoods.

The functions of the Hiouchi information center and the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park visitor center would be combined into a new visitor center facility that would be built in the Hiouchi area. The combined center would provide orientation information at the northern end of the parks and provide in-depth interpreta-

tion of the natural and cultural themes appropriate to the area. The center would include interior exhibits, a dedicated auditorium, book sales, campground and orientation information, and trip-planning. A number of hiking and driving tours would originate here.

The Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park visitor center would be retained to support campground operations, and a new entrance would be developed to this state park.

Information Centers — All functions at the Redwood Information Center would continue until the new primary visitor center was built; functions then would be transferred to the new visitor center. Redwood Information Center would be salvaged and the site would be converted to day-use with interpretive opportunities including beach access, boardwalks, and wayside exhibits. (The Redwood Information Center is in the tsunami zone; see the "Public Safety" chapter in the "Affected Environment" for more information.)

Information about Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park would be provided primarily through the Crescent City headquarters/information center until these resources were transferred to the new facility in the Hiouchi area when it is built.

Outdoor Schools

Issue. Two outdoor schools are operated by RNSP staff as part of the core interpretive program for five months a year. The joint plan needs to consider the optimal level of direct RNSP operation of the schools, the year-round use of the facilities for education and other purposes, and the appropriate roles of partners to assist in this work.

Action. The two outdoor schools would continue to be operated, primarily in fall and spring, as an overnight facility for regional kindergarten through 12th-grade students. An expanded, revenue-generating use of the facility would be developed for winter and summer to include use for conferences and educational programming by community groups. As funding allows, the education program would also be

expanded to include outreach to community schools and other educational groups. The focus of the education program would include both natural and cultural resources. Alternative ways of funding and staffing the operation would be explored.

PUBLIC USE, RECREATION, AND VISITOR SAFETY

Objectives

- Support and facilitate appropriate public use and enjoyment of the parks and participation in activities related to the parks' resources.
- Provide facilities in appropriate locations to support a variety of public uses and recreational activities.
- Provide opportunities for public access to the full range of RNSP resources and in a variety of locations.
- Manage recreational activities and settings to protect resources, promote public safety, and minimize public use conflicts.
- Resolve situations where public use violates NPS or CDPR regulations or policies.
- Conduct carrying capacity analyses and develop detailed action plans where necessary and appropriate to address specific public use conflicts or resource protection issues.
- Develop a backcountry management plan to manage public use of the parks' backcountry, including hiking, camping, and equestrian and mountain bike use, and to provide guidance concerning the development of a comprehensive trail system and other backcountry facilities.
- In cooperation with local communities and adjacent jurisdictions, maintain a safe and healthful environment for visitors as well as a coordinated, professional, public safety program.
- Where practicable, standardize and/or coordinate NPS and CDPR public use policies to avoid creating confusion for the public.
- Authorize commercial services that enhance public access to or use and enjoyment of RNSP resources.

Issues and Actions

Visitor Use Levels

Issue. Public use, if not managed carefully, has the potential to damage natural and cultural resources. Concerns exist about the ability of certain sites and resources in the parks to accommodate current and future levels of visitation without resource degradation. Decisions must be made in the future whether to make site improvements, encourage or accommodate more visitors, limit visitation in certain areas, or redirect visitors to other sites.

Action. Visitor use would be limited to that which would result in no significant impacts on resources and their values. To determine the level of visitor use that would be allowed without adverse impacts on resources or visitor experience, a visitor carrying capacity analysis would be conducted for the Tall Trees Grove, Lady Bird Johnson Grove, Stout Grove, and Fern Canyon, and carrying capacities would be established. (See the discussion on "Public Use, Recreation, and Visitor Use" in the "Actions Common to All Alternatives" chapter for further description of the carrying capacity analysis process.)

Based on the results of carrying capacity analyses, the facilities and parking areas at Tall Trees Grove, Lady Bird Johnson Grove, Stout Grove, and Fern Canyon might be modified to ensure that there would be no adverse impacts on the sensitive resources there.

In the Tall Trees Grove, the trailhead and parking area would be redesigned within the current limits of disturbance to improve the appearance and circulation patterns while maintaining the current capacity.

In the Stout Grove, the construction of a pedestrian access from adjacent sites would be considered, in conjunction with the carrying capacity analysis.

In Fern Canyon the parking area would be relocated out of the stream channel. The capacity of the parking area would be

established based on the results of the carrying capacity analysis.

Enderts Beach road would continue to provide public access to the Crescent Beach overlook and the segment of the Coastal Trail leading to Enderts Beach and Nickel Creek campground; however, the road would be converted to day use if necessary to resolve public use and resource degradation issues at those locations.

The picnic area at Crescent Beach would be retained, but the road, parking, trails, and restrooms would be relocated out of wetlands.

Easily damaged cultural resource sites and sites that are important to American Indians would be treated as discovery sites. Visitor access to selected cultural sites would be on foot or managed to protect the resources.

Recreational Activities

Issue. Recreational activities are an important component of public enjoyment of the parks' resources and values. Decisions must be made regarding the types of recreational opportunities to be provided in the parks and the management strategies to be used to protect the parks' resources and values, to avoid public use conflicts, and to coordinate the development of facilities with neighboring jurisdictions.

Actions. A backcountry management plan would be prepared that would specify the location of camping areas and describe RNSP policies and rules for use of backcountry areas by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The backcountry management plan would be guided by the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences of the appropriate management zones. Other action items would be as follows.

Campgrounds with Access by Vehicles — A greater number and variety of campsites would be provided in existing campgrounds in state parks outside of sensitive resource areas than currently exist. The possibility of adding campgrounds in state parks would be considered. Campgrounds that would be accessible by vehicles would not be constructed in the Bald Hills area.

Primitive Camping — A variety of primitive walk-in, backpacking, equestrian, and biking camping experiences would be provided in designated sites and zones in the parks. Additional primitive campsites are called for in the 1984 *Redwood National Park Backcountry Trail Plan* and as extracted from the 1985 *State Redwoods Parks General Plan* and shown in appendix G.

Sites for primitive camping would be designated in the Coyote Creek basin. Camping in the Redwood Creek basin would be allowed only on the Redwood Creek gravel bars or in the designated horse camps on the west side of the Redwood Creek basin. In addition, more opportunities for primitive camping would be provided by designating sites along the trails and in other areas on both the east and west sides of the basin.

Hiking — The current system of hiking trails would be maintained and, with regional coordination, those trails called for in existing plans and consistent with the management zones delineated in this alternative would be constructed, including those listed in appendix G of this document, the 1984 *Redwood National Park Backcountry Trails Plan*, and development concept plans. A comprehensive regional trail system would be developed that would include the parks and adjacent jurisdictions.

New trail construction would place a high priority on providing hiking trail connections between major existing trails such as Coastal Trail to Redwood Creek basin and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to Coastal Trail, completing the trail links to Crescent City and Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks, and establishing the Aubell property as a trailhead for western access into Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Boardwalks would be constructed to facilitate the interpretation of wetland areas. A memorandum of understanding exists between Redwood National Park, North Coast Redwood District, Six Rivers National Forest, Del Norte County, and Humboldt County to regionally coordinate trail construction and management activities for the California Coastal Trail and Coast to Crest Trail.

Equestrian Use — The current system of equestrian trails would be maintained and, with regional coordination, trails called for in existing plans (including the those extracted from the *State Redwoods Parks General Plan* and listed in appendix G, the 1984 *Redwood National Park Backcountry Trails Plan*, and development concept plans) would be constructed. No equestrian trails would be provided on the east side of Redwood Creek Basin.

Sections of equestrian trails that are in sensitive areas would be removed, relocated, or redesigned. A regional trails system would be developed and coordinated with adjacent jurisdictions and landowners.

Mountain Biking — The current number of mountain bike trails in the parks would be evaluated, and those found to be appropriate would be maintained. Trails called for in existing plans would be constructed. A limited number of new mountain bike trails would be designated in areas of the parks where bicycles would not damage resources. Mountain biking loop trail opportunities would be developed on certain roads in Coyote Creek basin. A regional mountain bike trails system would be developed in coordination with adjacent jurisdictions and landowners.

Picnic Sites at Bald Hills — Additional picnic opportunities would be provided at Bald Hills.

Freshwater Spit Visitor Use

Issue. Freshwater Spit serves as the southern gateway to the parks and is extremely popular with owners of recreational vehicles as an oceanside camping/rest area. The area is owned by Caltrans and leased by the National Park Service. Overnight use results in sanitation and public safety problems, adversely affects resources, and detracts significantly from the otherwise outstanding visual qualities of the area.

Facilities and services are inadequate to support current public use levels, and there are strong questions about whether the area is an appropriate site for a camping facility, particularly

given the fact that it is in a high-hazard tsunami zone. This camping is perceived to provide inappropriate competition for nearby privately owned facilities and services, although its users do contribute to the economy of the town of Orick.

Actions. In this area overnight camping would be eliminated, and the area would be designated as a day use area only. If necessary, the National Park Service would seek to acquire the area from Caltrans to manage public use appropriately.

Vehicles on the Beach

Issue. Vehicles are operated on beaches at Freshwater Spit, Gold Bluffs Beach, Crescent Beach, and on the spit at the mouth of the Klamath River. Freshwater Spit beach has three vehicle access points. The beach is open to all vehicles capable of driving on soft sand. Once on the beach, vehicles are required to stay below mean high tide line to avoid damaging native dune vegetation. Vehicles can cross Redwood Creek during those times when the sand berm prevents the creek from reaching the ocean or when the creek is low enough to allow safe crossing. Vehicles being used for commercial fishing at Gold Bluffs Beach are required to use specific access points.

Depending on locations, this off-road vehicle use occurs in connection with recreational activities such as sportfishing, beachcombing, and gathering wood; traditional fishing/gathering activities conducted by American Indians; and commercial surf fishing activities, primarily for smelt, conducted in accordance with provisions of the legislative history of the 1968 Redwood National Park enabling legislation and the 1985 *General Plan for Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park*.

Vehicle use on Crescent Beach is subject to a Del Norte County permit system; vehicle use on Gold Bluffs Beach is subject to a CDPR permit system. Off-road vehicle use at Freshwater Spit and at the mouth of the Klamath River is currently not subject to permit requirements. Off-road vehicle use on beaches within the parks is inconsistent with managing and

protecting these areas as nationally significant natural settings and results in public safety and public use conflicts. This off-road vehicle use also violates NPS general regulations and statewide CDPR regulations that prohibit off-road vehicle use in national and state parks.

Actions. NPS and CDPR regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle use would be enforced throughout the parks, resulting in the elimination of all off-road vehicle use other than that which is essential to provide access for commercial surf fishing and traditional American Indian fishing/gathering activities. Off-road vehicle use associated with commercial surf fishing at Freshwater Spit, Gold Bluffs Beach, and Crescent Beach would continue by renewable, nontransferable annual permit only. However, only permits issued in 1996 would be renewed, no new permits would be issued, and any permit not renewed in a given year would be terminated. These actions would be taken, despite the provision in the national park's legislative history, to meet the NPS and CDPR statutory obligations to protect the RNSP resources and enhance public enjoyment of RNSP resources and values, and to provide consistent management of vehicle use on NPS- and CDPR-managed beaches. Off-road vehicle use on beaches in connection with traditional American Indian fishing/gathering activities that are consistent with the purposes of the parks would continue only at Gold Bluffs Beach under a CDPR permit system. Vehicle use would be managed to prevent resource damage and to minimize public use conflicts.

Concessions

Issue. Guidance is required to determine which types of commercial services are necessary and appropriate to provide for visitors to the parks. Should such services be provided by concessioners in the parks or by the private sector in the vicinity of the parks?

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Commercial surf fishing and the off-road vehicle use associated with this activity have been allowed to continue within Redwood National Park since its establishment because of language in the legislative history of the park's enabling legislation (*House of Representatives Conference Report No. 1890*, September 11, 1968) which states

The conference report recommends the inclusion in the park boundaries of a strip of offshore submerged land one-quarter mile wide the full length of the park. This is done with the understanding that fishing, both sport and commercial, will be allowed to continue in the area involved and that the laws governing the same will be the laws of the State of California.

NPS and CDPR regulations prohibit off-road vehicle use in national parks and state parks. Pursuant to Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, NPS regulations codified at 36 CFR 4.10 limit off-road vehicle use to designated routes and areas in national recreational areas, national seashores, national lakeshores, and national preserves; these regulations apply to intertidal lands within the parks even though those lands are not federally owned. CDPR regulations codified at section 5001.8 of the *Public Resources Code* restrict the use of motor vehicles in state parks to paved areas and other areas specifically designated and maintained for normal ingress, egress, and parking.

Action. The horse and hostel concessions in the parks would continue. Other concession services such as bus tours, shuttle services, or hiking tours would be authorized only if considered necessary to supplement the parks' interpretive program. Other services would be provided by the private sector outside the parks.

Before recommending the provision of public services by private vendors, the following factors would generally be considered:

1. The parks' mission and goals as provided in law and planning documents.
2. The quality and type of existing public services.
3. The public demand/need for services.

4. The ability of resources to support concession services.
5. The economic viability of providing such services by private vs. public vendors.
6. The necessity and appropriateness of the service.

New, proposals would be sought from qualified bidders in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

VISITOR ACCESS AND CIRCULATION / ROADS

Objectives

- Administer the roads in the parks under NPS and CDPH jurisdiction to facilitate and enhance visitors' leisurely enjoyment of RNSP resources and public use facilities rather than catering to the needs of through traffic.
- Ensure that RNSP roads relate simply and harmoniously with the topography and surrounding environment; these roads would often be more narrow and winding and have lower speed limits than roads outside the parks.
- Provide safe opportunities for visitors to see scenic vistas and other points of interest, enjoy interpretive displays, and access trails, picnic areas, and other recreation facilities along RNSP roads.
- Provide distinctive and unobtrusive signs to orient, guide, and inform visitors.
- Provide bicycle lanes, alternative transportation systems, and one-way roads and set vehicle size limits, as appropriate, to ensure public safety and visitor enjoyment.
- Use methods such as limiting the size of parking facilities, using mass transit, or establishing public use limits and permit systems to limit the number of persons or vehicles that would be allowed access to sensitive sites where the protection of fragile resources is of concern.
- Depend on U.S. highways in the parks to serve as the primary access routes to the parks, to be managed and maintained by state and federal transportation agencies.
- Depend on Del Norte and Humboldt Counties to manage and maintain county roads within the

parks that provide access to nonpark lands that serve the general public in addition to RNSP visitors.

- Work cooperatively with the agencies having primary jurisdiction on these U.S., state, and country roadways throughout the parks to promote public safety, to enhance opportunities for travelers to enjoy scenic vistas and gain access to RNSP resources and facilities, and to protect RNSP resources that are adjacent to the roadways.
- Consider entering into agreements for RNSP management and/or maintenance of county roads that are in good structural condition, that provide access exclusively to park lands, and that serve primarily park visitors.
- Design, construct, and maintain RNSP roads that provide access from state highways or county roads to RNSP facilities so that they are sustainable, provide safe access for visitors and employees, and minimize the disruption of traffic on through highways.

Issue

There are numerous roads in the parks; proposals for operation and maintenance of these roads sometimes conflict with the protection of RNSP resources and values. A long-term strategy for the operation and maintenance of these roads that ensures the protection of RNSP resources and values needs to be developed.

Actions

Bald Hills Road

Humboldt County would be encouraged to maintain this road as a low-speed rural gateway to an area of diverse natural and cultural landscapes where travelers could enjoy spectacular scenic vistas and numerous opportunities to pull off the road and hike or take in interpretive exhibits. The National Park Service would provide opportunities for visitors to observe and appreciate a variety of natural and cultural resource management projects, such as prescribed fires, prairie restoration, and second-growth

forest management. Through-travelers would enjoy a unique alternative route to the scenic Klamath and Trinity River corridors and the Hoopa Reservation.

Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway

The road would be kept in its current alignment through the prairie. The Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway would continue to be operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, with special operational/maintenance requirements defined by Caltrans.

Davison Road–Gold Bluffs Beach Road to Fern Canyon

Depending on a carrying capacity study, minor road improvements (see glossary) would be made to facilitate access to Gold Bluffs Beach/Fern Canyon. The road would not be paved. Other methods of access (e.g., a shuttle) to Fern Canyon would be evaluated. Note: All actions would depend on agreements with the county.

Cal-Barrel Road

This road would be kept as a narrow, unsurfaced dead-end park road. Drainage would be improved, and areas likely to fail would be treated to reduce the threat of erosion. No trailers would be allowed on the road.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park Entrance

The park entrance would be relocated to the Hiouchi area as part of the proposed new visitor center.

Stout Grove

Based on the results of the monitoring efforts and a carrying capacity study, minor improvements would be made to the access road and parking area to better protect the resources.

Howland Hill Road

The two-way unsurfaced park road would be retained and minor improvements would be made. This road would not be recommended for large trailers and motorhomes.

Tall Trees Grove

This road would be kept as an unpaved road with public access by permit only.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park Entrance

The access road would be replaced with a new road and entrance station at a more geologically stable and environmentally prudent location. The current access road would be removed or converted to a trail.

Greater Coastal Drive

Drainage and road surface improvements would continue to be made on this two-way unpaved park road. Major road failure would lead to its conversion to a trail.

Enderts Beach Road

Enderts Beach Road would be converted to day use if found to be necessary to resolve public use and resource degradation issues at those locations.

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY

Objectives

- Support sustainable economic development, the preservation of community values, and the availability of appropriate visitor services in local communities that serve as gateways to the parks.
- Participate as partners with those communities and local organizations in projects and initiatives that have mutual benefit, that enhance the quality of the overall experiences of visitors to the parks, or that enhance the levels of public appreciation and protection of RNSP resources.
- Encourage the development of appropriate sustainable visitor service facilities in the vicinity of the parks.
- Participate actively in local educational and public safety programs, and cooperate with local agencies and private interests in land use and

transportation planning for areas adjacent to the parks.

Issues and Actions

Lodge/Accommodations

Issue. In recent years there has been a great deal of interest in building a lodge in or near the parks. Based on NPS and CDPR policies, the construction of a lodge within the parks is not appropriate. However, there are opportunities for the private sector to build a lodge near or adjacent to the parks, in collaboration with the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, that could meet many of the objectives sought by project proponents.

Actions. The National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation would support and actively participate with private sector and/or tribal partners in their development of an appropriate destination lodge, near or adjacent to the parks, that was linked thematically and physically to the resources and values of the parks.

Viewshed Protection

Issue. A strategy for viewshed protection needs to be developed to enhance and ensure quality visitor experiences.

Actions. Action items would be as follows.

Scenic Corridor — The acquisition of lands or interests in lands within the scenic corridor along U.S. Highway 101 north of Orick would be pursued as lands become available to protect resource values and the viewshed along that portion of Highway 101 and in the vicinity of RNSP visitor facilities in that area.

Viewsheds — Important visual areas would be identified, and the RNSP staff would work with local governments and conservation organizations to protect these areas. RNSP staff would also support efforts to improve visual quality, such as putting powerlines underground and initiating reforestation projects.

Adjacent Land Uses

Issue. There are some adjacent land uses, such as logging, land development, and agricultural practices, that have the potential to impact RNSP resources and the visitor experience. Strategies to minimize negative impacts need to be analyzed and incorporated into this joint plan as appropriate.

Actions. The parks would actively participate in planning, zoning, and other land use activities that might affect RNSP resources. RNSP staff would support and promote, where feasible, land uses that are compatible with restoration, protection, and maintenance of park resources and values.

Gateway Communities

Issues. Management plans, visitor services, and marketing efforts need to be coordinated with local interests to enhance the economic stability of local communities and to achieve mutual objectives in the areas of public services and facilities, tourism, and the preservation of community values.

Options for providing coordinated information/orientation services and facilities in the surrounding communities need to be evaluated.

Actions. RNSP staff would actively support and assist local communities in efforts to foster appropriate and sustainable economic development, to develop infrastructure needed for community development and RNSP facilities, and to develop services and facilities that support tourism and provide connections between the communities and the parks. RNSP staff would also provide technical assistance to communities, communicate support to agencies that authorize and fund development projects, and participate as partners in situations where mutual conservation, visitor service, or development objectives would be achieved.

RNSP staff would cooperate with local communities and organizations to ensure that public information and orientation services were coordinated and provided in convenient locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

Objectives

- Adequately maintain facilities needed to support RNSP administration and operations to provide a safe, sanitary, and aesthetically pleasing environment for employees.
- Evaluate structures on newly acquired lands for adaptive use as administrative facilities or remove them.
- Sustainably design new or rehabilitated facilities, construct them in appropriate locations to minimize adverse resource impacts and visual intrusions, and operate and maintain them to minimize the consumption of energy and conserve nonrenewable fuels.
- Use renewable sources of energy and energy-efficiency technology where appropriate and cost-effective.
- Relocate administrative facilities from resource areas that are easily damaged or remove them when reasonable to do so.
- If additional or replacement administrative space is required, give preference to leasing facilities in communities that are adjacent to the parks.
- Consolidate or jointly locate CDPR and NPS facilities wherever operational efficiencies or savings would be achieved.
 - Make facilities that become excess to RNSP needs available, if appropriate, for use by partners or cooperators, or remove those facilities.
- Provide housing for employees only where necessary for managing and protecting the parks.
- Dispose of housing on any newly acquired lands unless it was considered essential for operational purposes.

Issues and Actions

Operations Facilities (Maintenance, Ranger Activities, Fire Protection)

Issue. The National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation maintain a variety of facilities to support RNSP management and operations. The partnership between

the agencies provides an opportunity to evaluate existing facilities and to make decisions to eliminate, relocate, or consolidate these facilities or to construct new facilities in the interest of more efficient management of the parks and the protection of their resources.

Actions. NPS and CDPR facilities would be consolidated wherever it would be cost-effective to do so. RNSP headquarters would remain in the current facility in Crescent City. NPS primary maintenance facilities would continue to be in Requa, with some consolidation of CDPR maintenance facilities there; utilities and facilities at Requa would be upgraded and improved. CDPR primary maintenance facilities would remain at Aubell Ranch. Resource management staff offices in the South Operations Center and leased resource management staff offices in Arcata would be relocated to a GSA built-to-specification facility outside the parks in the Orick area. NPS and CDPR protection staff offices would be consolidated at the Aubell Ranch site in the north and, to the extent practicable, at the facility in the Orick area in the south.

Fire protection facilities would continue to be at Hiouchi in the north and Wolf Creek in the south; however, the National Park Service would consider moving the Wolf Creek fire cache and equipment into the Orick area facility. Interpretation staff offices would remain in the Crescent Beach Education Center in the north and in the Redwood Information Center (until the new primary visitor center is built). Small satellite facilities would continue in each state park unit to support operations in those areas.

CDPR administrative facilities in the northeast portion of Elk Prairie in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park would be removed when the opportunity to relocate them to the Orick area and/or to consolidate them with NPS facilities arises, including two 1950s residences, a barn/shed used to house vehicles and supplies, some seasonal cabins, a shop, a maintenance office, a storage area, and a gas shed; one historic house would be kept as a ranger residence.

The Schoolhouse Peak fire lookout would be retained for fire protection and evaluated for other administrative or public uses. It would be removed when no longer needed.

Housing

Issue. Employee housing requirements must be evaluated in accordance with current NPS and CDPR policies, and determinations must be made concerning the number and locations of housing units that are essential to managing and protecting the parks.

Actions. Generally, RNSP employees would live in local communities. In-park housing for permanent staff would be provided only for those needed to provide emergency services to the public or to protect RNSP resources and facilities. Otherwise, housing would be provided only for seasonal staff and volunteers essential to managing and protecting the parks. Efforts would be made to provide this housing outside the park. NPS housing would continue to be retained in the Hiouchi, Requa, Wolf Creek, Orick, and Bald Hills areas; NPS housing at Crescent Beach would be removed when no longer needed as housing.

CDPR housing would continue to be at Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks. The Boyes House at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park would be retained for use by emergency services staff, and the Gold Bluffs Beach residence would remain as required housing (for the ranger assigned to Gold Bluffs Beach). Appropriate seasonal housing would be retained at Prairie Creek.

LAND ACQUISITION

Objectives

- Acquire the minimum interest in lands necessary to meet management objectives described under management zoning.
- Use the most practical and cost-effective method of acquisition to protect RNSP resources and values, including any combination of fee or less-than-fee options or cooperation

with landowners; federal agencies, state, tribal, or local governments; and the private sector.

- Acquire lands necessary to preserve, protect, or restore significant RNSP resources and values and provide recreational opportunities consistent with RNSP purposes.
- Acquire those lands or interests in lands that are necessary to achieve RNSP purposes and minimize adverse impacts on RNSP resources that are the result of human activity outside the parks.
- Acquire interests in lands that are necessary to provide connections between coastal and inland trails in the parks.
- Acquire lands or interest in lands for the development of infrastructure needed for both RNSP and community uses.

Issue

PL 95-625 requires that NPS general management plans include measures for protecting the park's resources and "indications of potential modifications to the external boundaries of the unit and the reasons therefor."

Included among CDPR responsibilities is the requirement to acquire a balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, and historic importance. And, representative examples of California's natural and cultural resources are to be protected and made available for the enjoyment and inspiration of the people.

Actions

Actions for Federal Lands

The current program to acquire lands or interests in lands with significant resource, scenic, or public use values would continue as opportunities arose. However, because the legislated Redwood National Park boundary is limited to 106,000 acres, exclusive of submerged lands and publicly owned highways and roads, future acquisitions could not result in total acreage exceeding that figure without legislation authorizing an increase in the acreage ceiling. Any future federal land acquisitions

would be analyzed according to relevant boundary revision criteria, which include any or all of the following:

- The proposed acquisition includes significant resources or opportunities for public enjoyment that are both related to purposes of the parks.
- The proposal addresses operational and management issues such as access and boundary identification by topographic or other natural features or roads.
- The potential acquisition protects RNSP resources that are critical to fulfilling the parks' purposes.

In addition, recommendations to expand the boundary and acquire additional lands would be preceded by determinations that the added lands will be feasible to administer considering size, configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors, and that other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

As stated in the "Boundary Map Adjustments" section, future acquisitions would be included in the legislated national park boundary by publishing a revised drawing or boundary description in the *Federal Register*.

Actions for State Lands

The current program to acquire lands or interests in lands with significant resource, scenic, or public use values would continue as opportunities arose.

WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

Objectives

- Evaluate lands for designation as wilderness consistent with and supportive of the perpetuation of the redwood forest ecosystem as the prime resource of the parks.

Issue

The California Wilderness Act of 1975 directs the consideration of roadless areas of the parks for inclusion in the state wilderness system.

Actions

A state wilderness area would be proposed for a portion of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to conform to the general boundary described as south of U.S. Highway 199 and Hatton Trail, west of Hiouchi and Mill Creek Trails, north of the southern park boundary, and east of the western park boundary. A transportation corridor for the Howland Hill Road would be excepted from this general boundary.

A state wilderness area would be proposed for a portion of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to conform to the general boundary described as south of the Ossagon Trail, west of the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, north of the southern boundary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, and east of Davison Road–Gold Bluffs Beach Road and the Coastal Trail.